

Our Ref: 18-02-0078  
Ask For:



Coroners Court of Victoria  
Attn: Ms Avril Diamante  
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Southbank VIC 3006

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13 April 2018

Dear Ms Diamante,

**Re: Court Reference No. COR 2016 005084 – Sand Road & Princes Way  
Intersection, Longwarry North**

I write in relation to your letter dated 31 January 2018 regarding Coroner Ms Rosemary E Carlin's Finding without inquest into the death of Karen M Ryan.

The recommendation from the Coroner as per section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 was as follows:

*I recommend the Baw Baw Shire Council examines the traffic patterns at the intersection of Princes Way and Sand Road, Longwarry North, to determine the need for the reduction in the speed limit and lengthen the westbound left-hand turn lane on Princes Way.*

Following the fatality road crash on 25 October 2016 at the intersection of Princes Way and Sand Road, Longwarry North, Council officers conducted site investigations on 26 October 2016 to examine traffic patterns. VicRoads officers also participated in these site investigations, given VicRoads were completing works along Sand Road at the time.

Condition assessments were undertaken on existing road signs, line marking and the road surface to determine whether any of these elements could have been a contributing factor in the accident. VicRoads agreed to re-surface and line mark the intersection of Sand Road and Princes Way. A larger regulatory 'stop' sign was also installed at the intersection. These works were completed between late-January and early-February 2017.

In addition to these works and prior to the Coroner's recommendation, Council officers determined a reduction in the speed limit and a review of the line marking along Princes Way could increase road safety at the intersection of Sand Road and Princes Way. Council officers also consulted with members of Victoria Police on this matter.

Providing that VicRoads are the governing body for speed limit changes within Victoria, Council sought VicRoads approval to reduce the speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h on 22 February 2017. VicRoads suggested that public consultation be included as part of the formal application. A formal application was lodged with VicRoads on 26 June 2017 and a public consultation letter was sent to affected residents on 31 October 2017. Formal consent from VicRoads was received on 21 February 2018 for the reduction of the speed limit to 80km along Princes Way.

Following the Coroner's report, Council officers sought advice from VicRoads to re-configure the line marking along Princes Way to increase the effective length of the left-hand turn lane. This line marking reconfiguration would also result in a change to the priority lanes so that the left-hand turn into Sand road would be provided from a slip lane instead of the left-hand turn being provided from the through traffic lane. VicRoads supported the proposed line marking configuration.

Council has engaged a contractor to conduct the line marking changes. This is scheduled to be implemented along with the reduction of the speed limit in April 2018.

In accordance with the 'Guidelines for Responding to Coroners' Recommendation(s)', I note that Council has conducted the examination of traffic movements as per the recommendation in the Coroner's report. As a result of these investigations a range of infrastructure improvements were undertaken or are planned to be undertaken to reduce the speed limit and improve the effective length of the westbound left-hand turn lane on Princes Way.

If you have any further questions regarding the various matters above, please contact Cohen Van der Velde, Director Community Assets, on 03 5624 2846.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Leighton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Alison Leighton**  
Chief Executive Officer



Princes way & Sand Road Intersection, Longwarry North  
Existing Conditions





